

LACDMH SPONSORS BEHIND SOLACE TRAINING EXERCISE

By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



More than 100 participants from over 20 different agencies within Los Angeles County came together to take part in the Behind Solace training on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel in the City of Commerce. The training was a Los Angeles County Operational Area Family Assistance Center (FAC) exercise in order to prepare various city and county entities with the tools and training needed for activating a FAC within the county. The overall objective was to complete activation of the FAC within two hours of a major incident.



A FAC provides a central location for families to find their loved ones and get access to available social services after a major incident. Many times, families will look for help at the same place where something has happened, so close by is where a FAC will more

than likely be set up. At a FAC, family members can get information about their loved ones as well as get support. FACs are the only type of assistance center to open right after an emergency while still offering support functions to those who need it.



The Behind Solace exercise included not only the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) but also the following: Los Angeles County Operational Area FAC Steering Committee, Department of Coroner, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Social Services, Disaster Management Area Coordinators, District Attorney, County Fire Department, Office of Disability and Civil Rights, Office of Emergency Management and Sheriff's Department. Other agencies included: the City of Los Angeles City Attorney, Emergency Management Department, Department on Disability, City of LA Fire Department, City of LA Police Department, Los Angeles World Airports, City of Commerce, City of Santa Monica, City of Beverly Hills, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Federal Bureau of Investigations, American Red Cross and the Emergency Network Los Angeles.